

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in March was 213,641 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,892 t, 1% higher than that of the previous month but 1% below the rate for March 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased sharply to 96.850 cents per pound in March 2005 from 92.125 cents per pound in February, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased several times during March. On March 1, the price range increased to 69–71 cents per pound from 67–69 cents per pound at the end of February. On March 8, the price range increased to 70–72 cents per pound, and on March 15, it

increased further to 72–74 cents per pound. The price remained at this level through the end of the month.

Update

In April, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased significantly to 92.5 cents per pound, about the same level as in February. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs also decreased significantly during April. On April 18, the price range decreased to 70–71.5 cents per pound, and on April 26, it decreased again to 67–69 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004 ^p	2,516	1,830	1,200	3,020	3,250	938	4,180	9,720	1,470
2004:									
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	151	99	250	297	80	377	836	1,490
August	210	158	107	265	225	87	312	787	1,470
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	159	106	265	286	84	370	847	1,390
November	207	150	103	253	272	84	356	816	1,420
December	211	139	94	233	294	82	377	821	1,470
January-March	635	466	277	744	746	209	955	2,330	1,420
2005:									
January	209	157	102	259	334	90	425	893	1,510
February	191	152	103	255	289	97	386	833	1,460
March	214	167	92	259	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	613	476	297	773	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2004 ^p	1,680	1,240	754	668	1,080	1,010	110	98	5	5	3,630	3,020
2004:												
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136	99	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
August	147	109	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	318	265
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	148	110	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	319	265
November	146	108	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	306	253
December	133	98	61	54	78	73	8	7	(2)	(2)	281	233
January-March	413	306	171	153	273	255	33	29	1	1	891	744
2005:												
January	151	110	63	55	92	86	9	8	(2)	(2)	314	259
February	149	109	69	61	83	78	8	7	1	1	310	255
March	152	100	69	60	96	90	8	7	1	1	325	259
January-March	451	319	200	176	271	254	25	22	1	1	949	773

^pPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	126,000	152,000	83,700	100,000
Integrated aluminum companies	68,500	68,500	60,200	60,200
Independent mill fabricators	80,000	96,000	75,200	90,300
Foundries	6,750	8,100	5,940	7,130
Other consumers	422	507	422	507
Total	282,000	325,000	226,000	259,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MARCH 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	24,800 ^r	65,700	65,100	25,400	176,000	175,000
Can stock clippings	2,000 ^r	25,600	26,000	1,600	75,000	75,700
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,350	20,400	20,300	9,450	67,400	66,500
Casting	1,170	8,670	8,580	1,260	23,500	23,600
Borings and turnings	5,890	18,800	18,000	6,730	55,900	53,500
Dross and skimmings	5,220	37,600	37,600	5,300	110,000	110,000
Total new scrap	48,400 ^r	177,000	175,000	49,700	508,000	504,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,560 ^r	10,000	9,260	6,300	34,800	34,600
Used extrusion	42	257	257	42	770	770
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,030 ^r	68,700	67,100	9,560	201,000	197,000
Other wrought products	5,630	17,200	17,200	5,630	51,500	51,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,560 ^r	12,300	12,000	2,890	33,900	33,500
Total old scrap	21,800 ^r	108,000	106,000	24,400	322,000	317,000
Sweated pig	83	709	711	81	2,220	2,220
Total all classes	70,300 ^r	286,000	282,000	74,300	832,000	824,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,430 [†]	1,730	1,630	4,520	5,840	4,580
380 and variations	5,610 [†]	20,300	20,700	5,210	60,200	61,800
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,440 [†]	3,970	3,970	2,440	12,000	12,100
No. 319 and variations	4,790 [†]	9,440	9,090	5,130	28,600	28,200
F-132 alloy and variations	1,190	2,100	2,050	1,230	6,690	6,710
Al-Zn alloys	232	130	139	223	422	422
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	9	9
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	1,140	1,140
Other ⁴	4,910	6,290	6,650	4,540	18,000	18,700
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200	65,000	65,000
Total all alloys	33,900 [†]	66,000	66,300	33,600	198,000	199,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,780	XX	XX	29,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,710	XX	XX	8,630	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	626	XX	XX	1,960	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	52,900	XX	XX	158,000	XX

[†]Revised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Argentina	64	10,600	6	7	--	--	70	10,600
Australia	10,200	14,900	4	10	77	77	10,300	15,000
Bahrain	498	498	947	2,060	--	--	1,450	2,560
Belgium	--	--	1,030	1,940	--	--	1,030	1,940
Brazil	26,400	42,700	2,980	5,760	--	126	29,400	48,500
Canada	133,000	268,000	39,900	80,900	25,500	50,400	199,000	399,000
China	3,850	7,310	7,240	14,000	--	123	11,100	21,400
France	102	172	427	1,160	--	20	529	1,350
Germany	350	813	6,600	14,500	96	96	7,050	15,500
Hungary	--	--	27	32	--	--	27	32
Italy	--	--	155	358	--	--	155	358
Japan	75	185	1,830	3,020	84	120	1,990	3,330
Korea, Republic of	--	--	446	776	--	--	446	776
Mexico	--	--	1,680	3,530	9,640	17,400	11,300	20,900
Netherlands	--	48	118	429	--	--	118	478
Norway	--	--	33	37	--	--	33	37
Russia	88,500	192,000	8,850	14,200	326	893	97,700	207,000
South Africa	7,460	17,400	3,890	7,290	--	--	11,400	24,700
Spain	--	--	318	453	--	--	318	453
Sweden	--	--	272	564	--	--	272	564
Switzerland	--	(2)	233	465	--	--	233	465
Tajikistan	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	--	15,200
United Arab Emirates	6,680	11,600	77	77	64	64	6,830	11,700
United Kingdom	1,370	1,470	761	1,080	96	291	2,230	2,840
Venezuela	6,880	32,800	2,290	3,270	828	2,240	10,000	38,300
Other	3,830	8,380	16,500	31,000	4,400	9,060	24,800	48,500
Total	289,000	624,000	96,600	187,000	41,100	80,900	427,000	892,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Australia	4	39	131	292	--	12	135	343
Azerbaijan	--	--	(2)	1	--	--	(2)	1
Belgium	168	259	583	969	--	--	751	1,230
Brazil	59	98	435	742	123	516	617	1,360
Canada	10,200	21,700	41,400	83,200	11,800	23,700	63,300	129,000
China	35	46	1,010	3,180	33,200	60,300	34,300	63,500
Czech Republic	--	--	31	145	--	--	31	145
Dominican Republic	--	--	27	96	--	--	27	96
France	67	101	708	1,280	45	45	820	1,430
Germany	24	126	682	1,110	92	118	798	1,360
Hong Kong	--	7	481	743	1,080	1,580	1,560	2,330
India	13	32	24	63	723	1,370	760	1,460
Israel	62	96	179	315	--	--	241	411
Italy	--	--	221	489	--	--	221	489
Japan	492	535	844	1,300	2,390	4,690	3,730	6,530
Korea, Republic of	40	112	1,390	2,410	9,940	20,100	11,400	22,600
Malaysia	3	4	1,030	1,370	--	4	1,040	1,380
Mexico	11,600	26,100	14,300	28,100	3,300	6,760	29,200	61,000
Netherlands	27	28	55	94	--	16	81	139
Russia	--	27	(2)	(2)	--	--	(2)	28
Saudi Arabia	--	--	3,080	4,980	--	--	3,080	4,980
Singapore	31	32	189	393	--	39	220	464
Spain	9	9	34	108	20	156	62	273
Sweden	7	7	41	135	--	--	48	141
Taiwan	18	36	508	1,140	3,400	6,210	3,930	7,390
Thailand	19	47	856	1,330	689	1,810	1,560	3,180
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	38	57	1,160	2,210	41	57	1,240	2,320
Venezuela	--	--	51	120	--	7	51	127
Other	464	478	2,880	5,530	3,130	4,680	6,460	10,700
Total	23,400	49,900	72,300	142,000	70,000	132,000	166,000	324,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.